

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) Device for conveying strip-shaped material, such as a tread, from a feed side to a discharge side, comprising a main conveyor belt extending from the feed side to the discharge side, and auxiliary conveyor belts on both sides of the main conveyor belt and which each comprise a feed conveyor belt and a discharge conveyor belt, a slit-shaped opening between the feed conveyor belt and the discharge conveyor belt, positioned for on both sides of the main conveyor belt forming a slit, and a recorder, preferably an image recorder, such as a camera or line scan camera, above or below the slit.
2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein opposite the recorder at the other side of the slit a lighting unit is disposed, such as a fluorescent lighting or a stroboscopic lighting.
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further provided with a control unit, operationally connected to the recorder, memory means for storing an image of a complete strip of strip-shaped material, and calculation means for calculating the strip position on the device based on the recordings of the image recorder.
4. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the slit-shaped openings of the auxiliary conveyor belts extend in line.
5. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the main conveyor belt is adapted for over its full length supporting a strip.
6. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

wherein the main conveyor belt comprises retaining means for retaining the strip-shaped material on the main conveyor belt, and preferably the retaining means retain the strip on the main conveyor belt over almost its full surface supported on the main conveyor belt.

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the main conveyor belt is smooth for retaining an unvulcanised rubber strip on the main conveyor belt almost fixed in place, wherein preferably the auxiliary conveyor belts are smooth for retaining an unvulcanised rubber strip on the auxiliary conveyor belts almost fixed in place.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the feed conveyor belts are shorter than the discharge conveyor belts, preferably shorter to such an extent that the slit is near the feed side.

9. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the conveyor belts are so-called timing belts, provided with a servo-drive.

10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, provided with driving means at the feed side for the common driving of the main conveyor belt and feed conveyor belts, preferably a common driving roller or guiding roller.

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, provided with driving means at the discharge side for the common driving of the main conveyor belt and feed conveyor belts, preferably a common driving roller or guiding roller.

12. (Previously Presented) Tread application device for applying a tread on a building

drum for a tyre, comprising:

- a tread conveying device for conveying the tread to the building drum, from a feed side of the tread conveying device to a discharge side of the tread conveying device in a conveyance direction, comprising a main conveyor belt extending from the feed side to the discharge side in the conveyance direction, and auxiliary conveyor belts on both sides of the main conveyor belt and which each comprise a feed conveyor belt and a discharge conveyor belt, a slit-shaped opening between the feed conveyor belt and the discharge conveyor belt, positioned for on both sides of the main conveyor belt forming a slit, and a recorder, preferably an image recorder, such as a camera or line scan camera, above or below the slit, and

- a positioning device for positioning the tread on the building drum, wherein the positioning device comprises measuring means at the feed side for determining the position of a segment of the tread and generating a position value, displacement means for displacing the segment of the tread with a displacement directional component parallel to the axis of rotation of the building drum, and control means, connected to the measuring means and the displacement means, for on the basis of the position value controlling the displacement device during the application of the segment of the tread on the building drum.

13. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 12, wherein the main conveyor belt comprises a feed bearing roller and a discharge bearing roller, wherein the feed bearing roller forms a bearing roller for the feed auxiliary conveyor belts and the discharge bearing roller a bearing roller for the discharge auxiliary conveyor belts.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the tread conveying device is positioned mobile for displacing the discharge side with a directional

component parallel to the axis of rotation of the building drum.

15. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 14, wherein the tread conveying device is rotatably positioned about an axis of rotation substantially perpendicular to the displacement direction, preferably substantially perpendicular to the plane of the tread.

16. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 14, wherein the tread conveying device is positioned with the axis of rotation near the feed side for rotating the tread conveying device substantially parallel to a tread to be applied, preferably with the axis of rotation substantially in the middle below a tread to be applied.

17. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 12, wherein the measuring means comprise a calculation unit for calculating a middle position value of the segment from a recorded image of a segment.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 12 ~~[[-17]]~~, comprising means for securing a segment of a tread, preferably a tread over its full surface, on the tread conveying device.

19. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 12 ~~[[-18]]~~, further comprising further measuring means for determining the length of a tread.

20. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 19, further comprising means for adapting the length of a tread based on the result of the difference between the length measured and a predetermined set length.

21. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 20, wherein the measuring means comprise at least one image recorder for recording an image of at least a segment of the tread, the control means comprise a computer, the tread conveying device comprises driving means for driving the tread conveying device at an adjustable speed of movement of the tread, and the building drum comprises building drum driving means for driving the building drum at an adjustable speed of circulation, wherein the image recorder, the driving means and the building drum driving means are connected to the computer for exchanging data with the computer, and the computer comprises software for based on images of the image recorder calculating the position and the length of a tread, and based on the calculated length adjusting the mutual operation of the driving means and building drum driving means.

22. (Currently Amended) Method for applying a tread on a building drum for a tyre using the device according to ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 12 ~~[[21]]~~, wherein the position of each segment of the tread on a tread conveying device is measured, after which the tread conveying device conveys the tread to the building drum and applies it on the building drum, wherein during application of the tread on the building drum the position of a segment of the tread that is applied on the building drum is repeatedly adjusted to a pre-set value prior to it being applied on the building drum by laterally displacing the tread conveying device with respect to the building drum.

23. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein over nearly the full length of the tread the middle is repeatedly determined from a measurement of the position of both sides of a segment.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22 ~~[[or 23]]~~, wherein during the application the tread on the building drum a part of the section of the tread that has not yet

been applied on the building drum is displaced with respect to the building drum with a displacement component parallel to the axis of rotation of the building drum.

25. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 24, wherein during displacing the part of the tread that has not yet been applied on the building drum, a leading part of the tread is applied on the building drum, and a trailing part of the tread is retained on a tread conveying device.